



PROGRESS REPORT NO. 129

TO: Laura Buelow, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – via Email
Kathryn Cerise, EPA – via Email

FROM: Kris McCaig – Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

DATE: April 10, 2017

FILE NO: 01-773180-000

RE: Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 129 Month Ending March 2017

Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Phase 2 Sediment Study - TAI in receipt of EPA's the December 9, 2016 letter transmitting EPA's comments on the December 2015 draft Phase 2 Sediment Study Data Summary and Data Gap Report (DSR). On December 20, 2017 TAI submitted a letter to EPA requesting an extension of the deadline to deliver the revised report and response to comments from January 10, 2017 to April 10, 2017 (90 days from the original deadline). EPA approved the extension in a letter dated January 9, 2017. At the time of writing, TAI delivered the revised report and response to EPA's comments on April 10, 2017.

Sediments – TAI is in receipt of a letter from EPA dated December 14, 2016 in which EPA presented a Statement of Finding (SOF) the Agency used to draw conclusions about risk to the benthic community in a portion of the UCR Site. A technical meeting was held on January 31, 2017 to discuss the SOF and associated data. Follow-up discussions between the EPA and TAI Project Managers occurred in February and as a result, a second technical meeting was scheduled for June 7, 2017.

Benthic Macroinvertebrate Tissue Study – Following completion of the summer/fall field sampling TAI revised the sample compositing plan and submitted a draft final version to EPA on October 27, 2016. EPA provided a revised approach to the compositing plan in an email to TAI on December 7, 2016. TAI and EPA have been working to resolve issues or concerns each has on the two different approaches through a series of written correspondence and discussions, the last of which occurred on March 23, 2017; TAI informed EPA that it had decided to implement the October 27, 2016 compositing plan

based on EPA's interim compositing plan dated July 22, 2016, instead of adopting that proposed by EPA in December 2016. At the time of writing, the laboratory has begun processing the organisms and EPA visited the lab with TAI's consultant on April 7, 2017 to observe.

Recreation Consumption and Resource Use Survey – EPA provided the Draft Final Data Analysis Report (DAR) for the Recreational Use Survey to TAI on April 15, 2016 and TAI submitted review comments to EPA on June 10, 2016. TAI has postponed its review of the November 23, 2015 Memorandum written by SRC titled "Recreation Use Survey Fish Ingestion Rate" given that the memorandum referenced the following version of the DAR for the recreational use survey: "SRC, Inc. (2014). Data analysis report for the recreational use survey for the Upper Columbia River Site human health risk assessment and remedial investigation/feasibility study. Prepared under contract for the Environmental Protection Agency. January 16."

Tribal Consumption and Resource Use Survey – On June 27, 2016 EPA submitted the April 30, 2016 report titled "Statistical Review of a Report on Food Consumption and Resource Use among Residents of the Colville Reservation" as prepared by The Mountain-Whisper-Light Statistics for TAI to review and provide comment. TAI provided review comments to EPA on September 26, 2016.

2016 Residential Soil Sampling – TAI delivered the draft DSR to EPA on March 30, 2017. TAI continued working with EPA on a letter template to be used to communicate soil sampling results to landowners who had soil sampling conducted on their property for the 2016 study. On March 30, 2017, EPA approved the letter and TAI began preparing maps and tables to be sent to each of the 144 residence owners in April 2017.

White Sturgeon Sediment Toxicity Study – In January 2014 TAI submitted to EPA, the draft final version of the Assessment of Sediment Toxicity to White Sturgeon DSR and response to EPA's comments. On August 10, 2015 TAI met with EPA to discuss the draft final DSR and TAI's response to comments and clarify further changes needed in order to revise the DSR. TAI submitted a revised DSR and revised response to comments to EPA on November 20, 2015.

Soil Amendment Technologies Evaluation Study (SATES) – On February 22, 2017 a study kick-off meeting was held in Seattle, WA with EPA, Teck and the Participating Parties to review the study plan including objectives, approach, scope elements and phasing. On March 31, 2017 TAI distributed a Phase I Work Plan Outline, Work Plan Contribution Organization Chart and Schedule to the SATES Work Plan Team for review and input. A spring technical and siting meeting was planned for May 9, 2017.

Analytical Support for Sturgeon Sampling Effort – The nine sturgeon fillet composite samples were processed and analyzed, data were validated, and the final validated data and validation reports were uploaded to the UCR RI/FS database web tool on February 6, 2017. TAI delivered the draft White Sturgeon Tissue Study DSR to EPA on February 21,

2017 minus the field summary report (Appendix A) which EPA is working to finalize based on comments.

Assessment and Estimations of Upland Soils on the UCR Site (background soil study) – TAI is in receipt of EPA's letter of December 2, 2016 requiring a response to EPA's July 22, 2016 formal transmittal of a Level of Effort for Assessment and Estimations of Upland Soils on the UCR site by January 9, 2017. EPA agreed to defer response to the LOE until after the meeting between EPA and Teck on February 1, 2017 to discuss a study for delineation of the upland aerial footprint reflecting atmospheric deposition of Trail Facility emissions. On and on February 3, 2017 TAI received a letter from EPA indicating that there was nothing during the meeting discussion that EPA believed justified delaying the background study and therefore the fourteen-day period for TAI to invoke a dispute on EPA's direction to conduct the study had begun. TAI issued a notice of dispute in a letter to EPA dated February 17, 2017 and the TAI and EPA project managers followed up with informal dispute resolution discussions. Agreement by EPA and TAI to extend informal dispute by 3weeks (to March 24, 2017) was documented in a March 2, 2017 from EPA to TAI. Discussions continued in March however, more time was needed and as such a second agreement to extend informal dispute by 3weeks (to April 19, 2017) was documented in a March 29, 2017 from EPA to TAI.

Plant Tissue Study – TAI is in receipt of a letter from EPA dated December 8, 2016 regarding approach for conducting plant tissue sampling and proposed that EPA develop the quality assurance project plan and lead the sampling program with Teck's funding. EPA required a response by January 13, 2017. EPA agreed to defer response to the LOE until after the meeting between EPA and Teck on February 1, 2017 to discuss a study for delineation of the upland aerial footprint reflecting atmospheric deposition of Trail Facility emissions. On and on February 3, 2017 TAI received a letter from EPA indicating that there was nothing during the meeting discussion that EPA believed justified delaying the plant tissue study and therefore the fourteen-day period for TAI to invoke a dispute on EPA's direction to conduct the study had begun. TAI issued a notice of dispute in a letter to EPA dated February 17, 2017 and the TAI and EPA project managers followed up with informal dispute resolution discussions. Agreement by EPA and TAI to extend informal dispute by 3weeks (to March 24, 2017) was documented in a March 2, 2017 from EPA to TAI. Discussions continued in March however, more time was needed and as such a second agreement to extend informal dispute by 3weeks (to April 19, 2017) was documented in a March 29, 2017 from EPA to TAI.

Delineation of Upland Aerial Footprint Reflecting Atmospheric Deposition of Trail Facility Emissions – TAI requested and EPA agreed that a meeting to discuss a delineation/footprint study will occur before the above reference background soil and plant tissue studies proceed. The meeting took place on February 1, 2017. EPA and TAI are evaluating the information that was presented during the meeting.

Baseline ecological risk assessment (BERA) – two toxicity reference value (TRV) development webinars were held between EPA and TAI on March 27, 2017; one for soil

background and bioavailability and one for wildlife. At the time of writing webinars have been scheduled for fish dietary (April 18, 2017) and sediment (May 1, 2017) TRV development.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.